Joint Venture Projects in Saudi Aribia

4862. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saudi Arabia has sought assistance form India for setting up joint sector projects in that courtry;

(b) if so, the details of such projects; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). During the 3rd session of the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation held at New Delhi on 13-14 November, 1991, possibilities of developing bilateral Cooperation in setting up projects in Saudi Arabia were discussed. The Saudi Arabian side indicated that such opportunities existed in industrial sectors like food processing industry, metal and fabrication industry, chemical industry, light engineering industry, textiles, leather goods, wood panels, packaging industry etc. The information provided by the Saudi Arabian delegation has been passed on to Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Engineering Export Promotion council and Exim Bank for being disseminated to the Indian entrepreneurs.

[*Translation*]

Import of Sugar

4863. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value in foreign exchange of sugar imported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the country has now become self dependent in the matter of sugar; and

(c) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Out of the last three financial years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, a quantity of 2,41,750 tonnes of sugar was imported during 1989-90 only at a CIF value of US $ 125673070.

(b) and (c). Production of sugar during the sugar seasons 1989-90 & 1990-91, (October-September) was adequate to meet internal consumption without imports. During 1991-92, taking into account the carryover stocks at the beginning of the season and the estimated sugar production during the season, there would be adequate availability of sugar to meet the internal requirements.

Free Travelling Facilities to Journalists in D.T.C.

4864. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide free travelling-facility to accredited journalists in Delhi Transport Corporation buses;

(b) if so, by what time a decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.